

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 827

By Matheny

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Eugene London upon his
induction into the Tennessee Secondary School
Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those citizens who, through unwavering dedication and unflagging commitment to excellence, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Eugene London, who has, for more than fifty years, dedicated himself to the education and instruction of young athletes; on March 18, 2006, Mr. London will be inducted into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) Hall of Fame, a most befitting recognition of his outstanding service to Tennessee athletics; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable man has dedicated forty years of overall service as an official with the TSSAA; and

WHEREAS, joining the TSSAA following school integration in 1965, Eugene London proved to be an excellent football, baseball, and basketball official, and he became well-known for the fairness of his judgment and his knowledge and understanding of the sports he officiated; and

WHEREAS, a native of Tullahoma, Mr. London began his officiating career after graduating from high school. After spending two years in the military, he returned to Tullahoma and resumed officiating, and he soon formed an association of African-American officials which served the African-American high schools in southern Middle Tennessee for ten years until school integration in the mid-1960s; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Eugene London has refereed many important high school games, including championship football and baseball games and several state basketball tournaments, has officiated college football and baseball games, and once served as a traveling referee for the internationally-famous Harlem Globetrotters; and

WHEREAS, until his retirement in 1996, Eugene London served with acumen as a firefighter for the Arnold Engineering Development Center; throughout much of his career as a firefighter, he voluntarily worked the midnight shift so that he would be able to pursue his passion for officiating, a passion that has not waned for five decades; and

WHEREAS, the significance of Mr. London's impact cannot be adequately measured by his number of years as a TSSAA Official; his positive impact on the lives of students, athletes, fellow officials, and administrators will continue to resound in the community for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, for the above accomplishments, and because of his impeccable moral standards and impressive work ethic, Mr. London has been selected for induction into the TSSAA Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Eugene London, as a man of true character and commitment, exemplifies the type of selfless community servant and civic leader whom fellow Tennesseans admire for their tireless efforts to mold the State's youth, guiding them with solid principles and high standards, whether in the athletic arena or in the actions of daily life; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join the family and friends of Mr. Eugene London in congratulating him upon his induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame, honor and commend Mr. London for his substantial legacy as an official in the sports community of Tennessee, and offer our gratitude for the dedication which he has shown our State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.